



New Charges on Your Telephone Bill

As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Federal Communication Commission, you may see new charges on your telephone bill. Some of those charges are explained in this flyer.

Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC)

This fee allows local telephone companies to cover some of the costs of providing telecommunications services to individual locations. There is no change in this fee for residential lines or single-line business. It remains at \$3.50 per month. However, with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reforms, consumers who have more than one residential line will pay a higher charge for additional lines. The maximum charge is \$5 per line per month.

Business customers with multiple lines will also pay a higher fee per line each month.

Number Portability Charge

Consumer are allowed to keep their telephone number when they switch local telephone service. Local companies are allowed to recover the costs associated with the upgrade in equipment to allow for the transfer of the number. This charge is usually around 54 cents per month for a residential line and may be assessed up to 5 years. The charge to businesses with special lines may be higher.

Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge (PICC)

This is a flat-rate per-line charges which long distance companies pay local telephone companies to access the local company's network. If a consumer or business hasn't chosen a long distance carrier, the local telephone company may bill the consumer or business for the PICC. The charges will be:

Primary residential line 53 cents/line/month
Single line business 53 cents/line/month
Extra residential lines \$1.50/line/month
Multiline business line \$2.75/line/month

*It is important to remember that the FCC did not *require* long distance companies to pass the PICC charges to consumers. Each long distance company determine how it would handle PICC charges.

Universal Service Fund

The Universal Service Fund provides support for telecommunication services to rural and low-income consumers, school, libraries, and health care providers in rural areas.

All interstate telecommunications carriers must contribute to the fund. Each company will individually determine how it will recover this expense and may pass it on to their customers. They may call this a Universal Connectivity Charge.

Consumers may shop around for the telecommunications company which serves them best. Some companies may not choose to assess these charges to their customers.